

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method, comprising receiving a request for content having associated therewith an information object identified by a uniform resource locator (URL) including a redirector address; mapping, using a lookup table, the URL of the information object to a corresponding unicast address associated with an originating source for the information object; and using the unicast address as an anycast address so as to obtain the information object from a nearest information object repository identified by a redirector identified by the redirector address; wherein the nearest information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics that comprise average delay from the nearest information object repository to a source of the request, average processing delay at the nearest information object repository, reliability of a path from the nearest information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the nearest information object repository.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising directing the request to the nearest information object repository without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the nearest information object repository.

17. (currently amended) The method of claims claim 16 further comprising instructing the nearest information object repository to obtain a copy of the information object.

18-19. (canceled)